

May 6, 1975

million eight hundred thousand dollars to get the license plates to put out next year and when we renew, we all get new plates. My amendment, the change in statute, would say after the effective date of this act, there shall be assessed a fee of \$2 in addition to the other fees on all number license plates issued in this state. Such fee shall be assessed against the registration in the year of issuance collected with the other fees at the time such plates are issued and remitted to the State General Fund. This fee shall not apply to the replacements of number plates. Now, a million eight hundred thousand dollars is a lot of money, whether it comes out of the General Fund or whether it comes out of the Highway Trust Fund. We licensed last year a million three hundred and four thousand eight hundred and seventy three automobiles. If we adopt our amendment, we would take in \$2,609,000. That would replace the \$1,800,000 and have a little cushion. Now we have been losing money on these license plates for a long time. They have been costly and this would be one way to replace this money and it would be replaced by the persons that are driving the automobiles. If we take it out of the General Fund, we have people that actually don't own automobiles that would be sharing into this cost. I think this is a reasonable approach to our problem and I would urge you to adopt my amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis. We are discussing the Stull amendment.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I would like to ask Senator Stull a couple of questions. Are you trying to relate the cost of license plates to the citizenry? What does it cost to make a license plate?

SENATOR STULL: Senator Lewis, it is going to cost \$1,800,000 to make a 1,304,873 license plates. Now they always make a few extras. You understand that.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well, where's the original \$15 that we pay for those plates go?

SENATOR STULL: I am glad you asked that. That money goes into the Highway Trust Fund and there is certain deductions made out of that. Now these monies are collected each month, and for the month of April, we received \$3,407,304. Now that was along with the special fuel tax, the gasoline tax and the balance in the fund made up some \$10,000,000, a little over \$10,000,000.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: So the citizenry is paying five or six times what it costs for the plates and this is really a tax and they don't know it. We just tell them it costs \$15 for the plates.

SENATOR STULL: Of course, it is a tax, Senator Lewis, and our Department of Roads, our counties and our cities are short of road building money. I would like to go on just a little bit further here. This money each month is divided between the Department of Roads, the cities and the counties. After we make certain deductions, well, they go for grade crossing, refund to dealers and then we pay a sixth of the interest on the bonds we issued here a few years ago and on